

Lesson
20

Bad Attitude

Vocabulary

All the words in this lesson may be associated with human behavior.

aggravate (AG ruh VAYT) V. to make worse or more troublesome *(You will only aggravate the situation by shouting.)*

agitate (AJ i TAYT) V. to disturb or upset *(It is not wise to agitate an already angry parent.)*

avert (uh VURT) V. to prevent or avoid; to keep from happening *(By diplomatic intervention, Martha was able to avert a full-fledged fight between the two younger children.)*

censure (SEN shur) V. to express blame or disapproval *(Margaret was forced to censure the behavior of some of her employees.)*

chafe (chayf) V. to feel discontent or irritation *(Do you remember how you used to chafe under all of your parents' restrictions?)*

console (kuhn SOHL) V. to comfort *(Jenna knew just the right words to say to console her grieving friend.)*

cower (KOW ur) V. to shrink back in fear; to cringe *(The owner of the company was a cruel man who liked to see his employees cower under his vicious criticism.)*

dominate (DAHM uh NAYT) V. to control by strength or power; to master *(My brother thinks he can dominate me just because he is older than I am.)*

exasperate (ig ZAS puh RAYT) V. to annoy extremely; to make angry *(My kid brother likes to exasperate me with his endless teasing!)*

gloat (gloht) V. to think of triumphantly, with great and sometimes malicious satisfaction *(Barry began to gloat when it was announced he had won the contest.)*

humiliate (hyoo MIL ee AYT) V. to shame; to lower the self-esteem of *(A real friend would not humiliate you in public.)*

irk (urk) V. to annoy; to make weary or irritated *(Young children often irk their older brothers and sisters.)*

perturb (pur TURB) V. to distress or disturb greatly *(The little girl's misbehavior did not seem to perturb her mother in the least.)*

procrastinate (proh KRAS tuh NAYT) V. to delay; to put things off until later *(If you procrastinate much longer, you will not get your term paper finished on time.)*

rationalize (RASH uh nuh LYZ) V. to justify; to find an explanation or excuse for *(Meiko could always find some way to rationalize her poor grades.)*

regress (ri GRES) V. to go back to an earlier way of thinking or acting *(When young children encounter a painful trauma, they often regress in their behavior.)*

repress (ri PRES) V. to put down or hold back; to suppress *(After many visits to the therapist, Joan began to understand what had caused her to repress her emotions.)*

reprimand (REP ruh MAND) V. to scold severely *(When Jay disrupted the assembly, the principal had to reprimand him in front of the entire student body.)*

scowl (skowl) V. to frown or glower angrily; to look sullen *(Mom told my sister not to scowl but to bring a pleasant face to the dinner table.)*

tolerate (TAHL uh RAYT) V. to put up with or endure; to abide *(If there is one thing Mom will not tolerate, it is rudeness.)*